

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint for a motor vehicle, the ball and socket joint comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ with a housing (6) having a recess (5);

a ball pivot (1) which has a pin (2) and a joint ball (3), which is mounted with its said joint ball (3) rotatably and pivotably in said recess (5) of said housing (6), whereby said pin (2) extends out through an opening (7) provided in said housing[[],];

a sealing bellows (11) arranged between said housing (6) and said pin (2); and

a multipart measuring array (M), which has at least one signal transmitter (17, 18) and at least one sensor (20, 21, 22), characterized in that said measuring array (M) is being arranged between the a pin-side end of said joint ball (3) and the a pin-side end of said sealing bellows (11).

2. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that wherein part of said measuring array (M) is arranged at said pin (2) and another part of said measuring array (M) is arranged at said housing (6).

3. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that wherein a part of said measuring array (M) is arranged at an edge area (19) of said housing (6) which surrounds said opening (7).

4. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said signal transmitter (17, 18) is designed for producing produces a dipole field.

5. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 4, characterized in that wherein said signal transmitter (17, 18) is formed by comprises a magnet and said sensor (20, 21, 22) is formed by comprises a magnetic-field-sensitive sensor.

6. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 5, characterized in that wherein said signal transmitter (17, 18) is formed by comprises one of a permanent magnet [[or by]] and an electromagnet (26, 27).

7. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said measuring array (M) has a plurality of said signal transmitters (17, 18) and a plurality of said sensors (20, 21, 22).

8. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said measuring array (M) has two said signal transmitters (17, 18) and three said sensors (20, 21, 22).

9. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 8,

characterized in that wherein the two said signal transmitters (17, 18) are arranged diametrically opposite one another at said pin (2) and said sensors (20, 21, 22), forming the corner points of a triangle, are arranged at said edge area (19) of said housing (6) which surrounds said opening (7).

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10. (New) A motor vehicle ball and socket joint comprising:

- a housing having an opening to a recess;
- a ball pivot with a pin and a joint ball mounted in said recess of said housing whereby said pin extends out through said opening;
- 5 a sealing bellows connected to said housing and said pin; and
- a multipart measuring array including signal transmitters mounted to one of said pin adjacent to said joint ball and said housing, adjacent to said sealing bellows, and sensors mounted to one of said pin, adjacent to said joint ball and said housing, adjacent to said sealing bellows.

11. (New) A motor vehicle ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein said sensors are mounted at an edge area of said housing which surrounds said opening.

12. (New) A motor vehicle ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein said signal transmitters produce a dipole field.

13. (New) A motor vehicle ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein said signal transmitters each comprise a magnet and said sensors each comprise a magnetic-field-sensitive sensor.

14. (New) A motor vehicle ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein each of said signal transmitters comprises one of a permanent magnet and an electromagnet.

15. (New) A motor vehicle ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein said signal transmitters comprise two signal transmitters and said sensors comprise three sensors.

16. (New) A motor vehicle ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 15, wherein said signal transmitters are arranged diametrically opposite one another at said pin and said sensors are arranged forming corner points of a triangle at an edge area of said housing which surrounds said opening.